

Appl. No.: 09/611,920
Amdt. dated March 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Receipt of the Office Action dated December 18, 2003 is hereby acknowledged. In that action, the Examiner rejected all the pending claims as allegedly obvious over an article titled "Using LDAP Directory Caches" authored by Sophie Cluet *et al.* (hereinafter the *Cluet* article) in view of *Luotonen* (U.S. Patent No. 5, 864,852).

With this Response, Applicant amends claim 1, 6, 11 and 16. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests reconsideration.

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

With this Response, Applicant amends the Specification in several locations. The amendments to the paragraphs spanning pages 3-4 and pages 7-8 are to make consistent the use of reference numerals with the drawings. The amendment to the paragraph spanning pages 9-10 is to remove extraneous wording. No new matter is presented in these amendments.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 was rejected as allegedly obvious over the *Cluet* article in view of *Luotonen*. Applicant amends claim 1 to more clearly indicate that a plurality of connections between the directory server and the caching daemon are simultaneously maintained. This amendment finds support at least in the first full paragraph of page 9 and Figure 2.

The *Cluet* article may be directed to "using LDAP Directory Caches." *Cluet* article Title. [However, the caching described in the *Cluet* article is performed by the client machine, and the caching itself appears to be done to reduce client server communications.]

There has been much recent interest in the area of client caching to efficiently handle declarative queries using semantic information. The reasons for using the semantic information include better use of the client cache, more autonomy of the client, and reduced client server communication.

Cluet article, page 273.

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Luotonen may be directed to a file directory structure and mapping mechanism for a proxy server caching Web pages based on uniform resource locations (URLs). *Luotonen* Title; Abstract. While *Luotonen* may show a "proxy server" caching Web pages based on URLs between a client and a remote server, *Luotonen* fails to teach that the specific directory structure and mapping mechanism disclosed for URLs could be applicable to a LDAP directory. Further, *Luotonen* fails to teach any specifics regarding the logical coupling between the proxy server and the remote server.

Claim 1, by contrast, specifically recites, "simultaneously maintaining a first plurality of connections between the directory server and the caching daemon..." Neither the *Cluet* article nor *Luotonen*, alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest that a plurality of connections should be simultaneously maintained between the caching daemon and the directory server. [In fact, the *Cluet* article may teach away from such a system by teaching that caching should be used to "reduce client server communication."]

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and all claims which depend from claim 1 (claims 2-5), should be allowed.

B. Claim 6

Claim 6 was rejected as allegedly obvious over the *Cluet* article in view of *Luotonen*. Applicant amends claim 6 to more clearly indicate that a plurality of connections between the caching daemon and the directory server are open at the same time.

The caching described in the *Cluet* article is performed by the client machine, not an intermediate device. *Cluet* article, Page 273. While *Luotonen* may show a "proxy server" caching Web pages based on URLs between a client and a remote server, *Luotonen* fails to teach that the specific directory structure and mapping mechanism disclosed for URLs could be applicable to a LDAP directory. Further, *Luotonen* fails to teach any specifics regarding the logical coupling between the proxy server and the remote server.

Claim 6, by contrast, recites, "a caching daemon maintaining a plurality of connections to the directory server..." Neither the *Cluet* article nor *Luotonen*,

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alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest that a plurality of connections should be simultaneously maintained between the caching daemon and the directory server.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6, and all claims which depend from claim 6 (claims 7-10), should be allowed.

C. Claim 11

Claim 11 was rejected as allegedly obvious over the *Cluet* article in view of *Luotonen*. Applicant amends claim 11 to more clearly indicate that a first plurality of connections are simultaneously running.

[The caching described in the *Cluet* article is performed by the client machine, not an intermediate device.] *Cluet* article, Page 273. While *Luotonen* may show a "proxy server" caching Web pages based on URLs between a client and a remote server, *Luotonen* fails to teach that the specific directory structure and mapping mechanism disclosed for URLs could be applicable to a LDAP directory.] Further, *Luotonen* fails to teach any specifics regarding the logical coupling between the proxy server and the remote server.]

Claim 11, by contrast, recites, "a means for establishing a first plurality of simultaneously running connections between the directory server and a caching deamon... ." Neither the *Cluet* article nor *Luotonen*, alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest that a plurality of connections should be simultaneously running between the caching daemon and the directory server.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11, and all claims which depend from claim 11 (claims 12-15), should be allowed.

D. Claim 16

Claim 16 was rejected as allegedly obvious over the *Cluet* article in view of *Luotonen*. Applicant amends claim 16 to more clearly indicate that a first plurality of connections are established and maintained to the directory server.

[The caching described in the *Cluet* article is performed by the client machine, not an intermediate device.] *Cluet* article, Page 273. While *Luotonen* may show a "proxy server" caching Web pages based on URLs between a client and a remote server, *Luotonen* fails to teach that the specific directory structure

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and mapping mechanism disclosed for URLs could be applicable to a LDAP directory. Further, *Luotonen* fails to teach any specifics regarding the logical coupling between the proxy server and the remote server.

Claim 16, by contrast, recites, "A caching daemon, comprising ... a controller adapted to establish and maintain a first plurality of connections to the directory server..." Neither the *Cluet* article nor *Luotonen*, alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest that a plurality of connections should be maintained between the caching daemon and the directory server.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16, and all claims which depend from claim 16 (claims 17-20), should be allowed.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

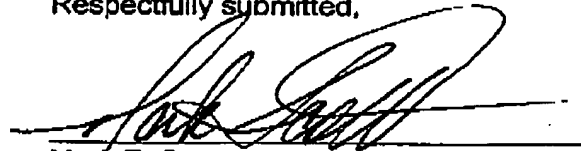
In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the related art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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